

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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CONTACT: Jason Wimbley
(916) 341-4356**\$4.8 MILLION IN ENERGY GRANTS
TO HELP LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS**

Sacramento, CA – Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) Director Lloyd Throne announced today that California has received \$4.8 million in federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Emergency Contingency Funds (ECF). These funds are earmarked to help low-income households cope with the anticipated high costs for fuel this winter. The release of these funds brings the State's total 2007 allocation to \$96.5 million.

"High utility bills overwhelm low-income households as they pay a higher share of their income for home energy [14.6%] than other households [3.2%]," said Mr. Throne. "This additional funding will provide valuable services and assistance to almost 8,000 additional low-income households."

CSD administers LIHEAP through a statewide network of local community-based service providers to help low-income households pay their utility bill, respond to energy-related crises, educate clients about energy conservation measures, and provide no-cost weatherization services such as attic insulation, weather-stripping, and minor housing repairs.

Priority for LIHEAP assistance is given to households with the highest energy burden in relationship to household income while taking into consideration vulnerable populations, such as the elderly, disabled and families with young children. For more information, log on to www.csd.ca.gov or call toll-free 1-866-675-6623 for a service provider in your area.

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